VOICE OF LESBIAN/GAY AMERICA

PATLAR

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 1992 ISSUE 116 • FREE

"African Woman"
1991, Mixed Media
Mickael Scott Jones

Seeking Common Ground

Perspectives on Ethnicity and Racism

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PATLAR

Voice of Lesbian/Gay America

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PATLAR was founded in 1982 by Larry Lanham and James "Pat" McWhorter (PAT & LAR). James McWhorter died in October 1991, and these issues are dedicated to him and all other lesbians and gay men who have been forced to stay closeted by intolerance and bigotry.

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LETTERS

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Drew Herzig's review of Mark Thompson's anthology *Leatherfolk*. Normally I make it a policy to ignore negative reviews (a piece of mine appears in the book). But Herzig's article is an attack on the S/M community, not just a book review. My comments are not addressed to people who are biased against accepting sexual variation within the larger gay community, but to men and women who want to explore their fantasies about dominance and submission but are afraid. So much damage—alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide, and just plain misery — has been done by people who spread lies about S/M and the leather community. Don't let the bigots convince you to stop coming out!

Leather people are a proud and self-respecting minority. Our right to seek sexual pleasure and form relationships with one another flows naturally from our honorable and affectionate treatment of one another. We do not need to apologize for being different. We have a long history and a rich culture, and it makes perfect sense for us to produce literature, music, events, etc. for each other Herzig's complaint that this anthology is "thoroughly pro-S/M" makes about as much sense as demanding that George Stambolian include an article by an antigay psychiatrist in a compilation of gay-male fiction.

See Page 5

COVER

African Woman 1991

Mixed Media: Pencil, acrylic, charcoal, gold leaf

Mickael Scott Jones

Mickael was raised in a cabin on the outskirts of Imnaha, Oregon, population 20. There were six kids in his grade school and for almost a year he was the only high school student in his school. As a high school student he taught art classes for extra credit.

Some of his artwork reflects this simple remote lifestyle — the solitary gas station, the forlorn barn, the isolated Indians and the Canadian geese.

His present direction is mixed photo-realism with an abstract background. Pencil and charcoal native American drawings and mixed medium African portraits.

Arrangement for use of this piece on our cover generously provided by Lite Rail Art Gallery, 912 12th Street, Sacramento, Michael Xepoleas, Director.

PATLAR READER SURVEY

PATLAR is interested in YOU! Who are you? What do you do? What are your interests? What do you want from Patlar? Please take a few moments to fill out this simple reader survey and return it to us. Rest assured that all responses will be kept strictly confidential; our purpose is to enable us to serve you better! And five respondents will receive a free one year subscription to PATLAR!

About you

1. What is your gender?
   - ❑ Female
   - ❑ Male

2. What is your sexual orientation?
   - ❑ Lesbian
   - ❑ Gay
   - ❑ Bisexual
   - ❑ Straight

3. Are you:
   - ❑ Completely closeted
   - ❑ Out to selected friends
   - ❑ Out to friends and family
   - ❑ Out to everyone

4. What is your age? _____

5. What is your ethnic heritage?
   - ❑ European
   - ❑ African
   - ❑ Hispanic/Latino/a
   - ❑ Native American
   - ❑ Asian
   - ❑ Pacific Islander
   - ❑ Other (Specify) _____

About home

6. Do you live in:
   - ❑ a rural area
   - ❑ small town (Under 50,000)
   - ❑ large town (50,000-100,000)
   - ❑ small city (100,000-500,000)
   - ❑ large city (Over 500,000)

7. Do you:
   - ❑ Live with parents/family
   - ❑ Rent by yourself
   - ❑ Rent with others
   - ❑ Own house/condo by yourself
   - ❑ Share ownership of a house/condo

8. How long have you lived in your present residence?
   - ❑ Less than 6 months
   - ❑ 6 months to 1 year
   - ❑ 1 to 3 years
   - ❑ 3 to 5 years
   - ❑ 5 to 10 years
   - ❑ Over 10 years

About school

9. Indicate highest level completed:
   - ❑ some high school
   - ❑ high school graduate
   - ❑ trade/vocational school
   - ❑ some college
   - ❑ college graduate
   - ❑ some graduate work
   - ❑ Completed MA/doctorate

About work

10. My household income is:
    - ❑ Under $15,000 per year
    - ❑ $15,000-20,000
    - ❑ $20,000-30,000
    - ❑ $30,000-40,000
    - ❑ $40,000-50,000
    - ❑ $50,000-75,000
    - ❑ $75,000-100,000
    - ❑ $100,000-125,000
    - ❑ $125,000-150,000
    - ❑ Over $150,000

11. My field of work is:
    - ❑ Arts
    - ❑ Banking/Finance
    - ❑ Clerical/Office
    - ❑ Construction/Trades
    - ❑ Counselling
    - ❑ Dental/Medical
    - ❑ Education
    - ❑ Farming/Agriculture
    - ❑ Food Services
    - ❑ Garden/Landscaping
    - ❑ Insurance
    - ❑ Law Enforcement
    - ❑ Law/Legal Services
    - ❑ Military
    - ❑ Public Service/Government
    - ❑ Real Estate
    - ❑ Sales/Retail
    - ❑ Small Business Owner
    - ❑ Student
    - ❑ Other

12. At work I am:
    - ❑ Completely closeted
    - ❑ Out to selected co-workers
    - ❑ Out to my supervisor
    - ❑ Out to most everyone.

About leisure

13. In the past year I have (check all that apply):
    - ❑ seen no theatrical films
    - ❑ Seen 1 to 5 theatrical films
    - ❑ seen over 5 films
    - ❑ rented no videos
    - ❑ rented 1 to 5 videos
    - ❑ rented over 5 videos
    - ❑ bought no books
    - ❑ bought 1 to 5 books
    - ❑ bought over 5 books
    - ❑ bought a lesbian/gay themed book
    - ❑ not gone to a live concert or performance
    - ❑ gone to 1 to 5 live concerts or performances
    - ❑ gone to over 5 live concerts or performances

14. In the past year I have (check all that apply):
    - ❑ Travelled outside my city of residence less than.5 times
    - ❑ Travelled outside my city of residence 5 to 10 times
    - ❑ Travelled outside my city of residence more than 10 times
    - ❑ Travelled by rented car
    - ❑ Travelled by train
    - ❑ Travelled by commercial airline
    - ❑ Travelled by gay/lesbian cruise
    - ❑ Travelled by non-gay/lesbian cruise
    - ❑ Visited a gay/lesbian supportive hotel/B&B/Resort
    - ❑ Visited a straight hotel/B&B/resort

15. In the past year I have spent roughly:
    - $ _____ on music (tapes/CD's)
    - $ _____ on books
    - $ _____ on cinema
    - $ _____ on videos

$ _____on clothing
$ _____on leather
$ _____on beer/liquor at bars
$ _____on beer/liquor at home
$ _____on dining out
$ _____on sports events
$ _____travel expenses
$ _____on fundraisers/charity events

About politics

16. My party affiliation is:
- ❑ Republican
- ❑ Democrat
- ❑ Libertarian
- ❑ Green
- ❑ Not Registered
- ❑ Other (Specify)_____

17. I consider myself to be:
- ❑ Very liberal
- ❑ Liberal
- ❑ Moderate
- ❑ Conservative
- ❑ Very conservative

18. My level of political involvement (check all that apply):
I have:
- ❑ never or rarely voted
- ❑ sometimes voted
- ❑ usually or always voted
- ❑ considered candidate views on gay/lesbian issues when voting
- ❑ written to a legislator/official on Gay issues
- ❑ telephoned a legislator/official on Gay issues
- ❑ Visited a legislator/official's office
- ❑ Donated time/money to a pro-Gay candidate
- ❑ Boycotted some firm or product because of Anti-Gay sentiment
- ❑ Taken part in non-violent rallies or marches
- ❑ Taken part in non-violent civil disobediance
- ❑ Taken part in other protest actions
- ❑ Been arrested for protest actions

About relationships

19. I am:
- ❑ Single, not looking
- ❑ Single, seeking a relationship
- ❑ In a relationship under 6 months
- ❑ In a relationship between 6 months to a year
- ❑ In a relationship between 1 year and 3 years
- ❑ In a relationship between 3 years and 5 years
- ❑ In a relationship between 5 years and 10 years
- ❑ In a relationship over 10 years

20. If in a relationship, you and your partner:
- ❑ allow for a completely "open" sexual relationship
- ❑ allow for an open relationship within agreed upon rules
- ❑ allow for rare sexual relations outside the relationship
- ❑ are both monogamous

21. If in a relationship, you and your partner:
- ❑ keep your finances completely separate
- ❑ Keep most personal assets separate, but maintain a pooled "household" account
- ❑ Pool most assets but maintain spparate personal accounts
- ❑ completely pool all assets

22. I:
- ❑ Have no children
- ❑ have adopted children
- ❑ Have children from before coming out
- ❑ Have children through artifical insemination
- ❑ Have children through foster parenting
- ❑ Would like to have children

About PATLAR

23. Where do you pick up PATLAR?
- ❑ Bar
- ❑ Bookstore
- ❑ Community center
- ❑ Video store
- ❑ Movie theater
- ❑ Through friends
- ❑ By subscription
- ❑ Other _____

24. Besides yourself, how many other people read your copy of PATLAR?_____

25. I read the following features:
(1=never, 2=rarely, 3=sometimes, 4=usually, 5=always)

❑ Letters	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Editor	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Mel Dahl	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Nancy Lyn Define	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Lee Horner	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Leonard Earl Johnson	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Mary Smith	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Ralph Walker	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Family Matters	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Positive Outlook	1	2	3	4	5
❑ CrossRoads	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Classifieds	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Ernie Brown	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Cat Comiskey	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Laura Post	1	2	3	4	5
❑ Sophisticated Traveler	1	2	3	4	5

26. My favorite aspect of PATLAR is:
_____
_____
_____
_____

27. My least favorite aspect of PATLAR is:
_____
_____
_____
_____

28. I would like to see more emphasis on:
- ❑ politics
- ❑ the arts
- ❑ fiction/poetry
- ❑ the Leather scene
- ❑ court functions
- ❑ women's health
- ❑ HIV/AIDS news
- ❑ couples
- ❑ Regional News (specify)
- ❑ Other (specify)

29. I would like to see less emphasis on:
_____
_____
_____
_____

Thank you.
Please mail to:
PATLAR Survey
PO Box 1413
West Sacramento, CA 95691
All responses due by February 25, 1992
Results will be published in April. Five respondents will receive a one year subscription to PATLAR. If you wish to be eligible, please include your name and mailing address. Thank you.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____State _____Zip_____

American society and gay and feminist politics specifically are saturated with anti-sex and anti-S/M ideology. If that's what you want, there's no dearth of it. What we lack are voices affirming each individual's right to ownership of his or her own body and libido — advocates of passion, activists who are willing to liberate our erotic imaginations, defend our alternative institutions, and combat censorship even when it's carried out by gay men and lesbians who think they are acting for the greater good of the rest of us.

Herzig's attempt to associate S/M with heterosexuality and clitorectomy amounts to name-calling. Yes, most of the people who do S/M are probably heterosexual simply because they are the majority. So what? Most of the people who breathe oxygen are heterosexual too, and I don't intend to give that up. The most visible, organized leather community is made up of gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals who support gay rights, and our organizations contribute significantly to the well-being of this movement. We have been particularly active in fund-raising for AIDS service organizations. The S/M community pioneered grassroots safe-sex education. Like it or not, we are part of the larger gay community, and we aren't going away just because a few conservatives don't like the way we dress or what we do in our bedrooms—and dungeons.

S/M activists have not spread the message that "Because I'm gay, everything I do is OK." If anything, we have made a fetish of free will and responsibility. Maybe that's what disturbs Herzig and his ilk so much—the specter of people really having sexual choices instead of simply doing what biology supposedly dictates.

Thanks to Patlar for balancing this review with an excerpt from the book and your new leather column.

Sincerely,
Pat Califia
San Francisco

Writers Wanted!!

What's happening in your neck of the woods? PATLAR is seeking regional writers to cover any of the following: California Central Valley, Riverside, Hawaii, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Washington, Oregon! All you need is a short, snappy update on the best your region has to offer that month! Contact us at: Editor, PATLAR, PO Box 1413, West Sacramento, CA 95691. THANKS!

Your Gay & Lesbian News Source PATLAR

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Martin D. Casey

Seeking Common Ground

As the swamp tour van eased on to the freeway past the shining New Orleans Superdome, the driver told us how he had come to America from Mexico and found a happy life here. The freeway concrete bent and buckled, but he proudly pointed out the new high-rises as we sped southwards. It was an odd contrast. "New Orleans' new city council has done most of that," he said, "and we have ourselves a Black majority on that council now...."

The group I was with, mostly gay, white, male professionals, nodded in appreciation. Clearly, the tour guide knew he was educating "northerners" on the New South, but then he continued, "Of course, y'all have to realize that there are two types of Blacks here in New Orleans. You've got your dark Blacks, who never really amount to much. But then you've got your 'Cafe au Lait' Blacks, whose grandmothers and so on were slaves and who have white blood in them from plantation owners getting the slaves pregnant - and these 'Cafe au Laits' have done real good."

Silence. We were stunned and embarrassed. I suppose we should have immediately denounced such bigotry, but I think we were so startled to see such attitudes on display, and for TOURISTS, that we just glanced at each other in nervous shock and slipped into contrite denial. He hadn't REALLY said that... had he?

I thought of that tour guide recently when David Duke nearly won the Louisiana Governor's office. And again when California Governor Pete Wilson set out to blame immigrants for the state's budgetary woes or held up as an example of extraordinary achievement a young Latina university student, leaving the public to draw the inferrence that NOT achieving that level of success was simply a personal failure, not a symptom of social disadvantages. And again when President George Bush stood between Coretta Scott King and Louis Sullivan to sing "We Shall Overcome" at a memorial service to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And each time my frustration grows, because I know that many of us have been guilty of ignorance — of neglecting to challenge the assumptions and stereotypes passed down by generations. I know equally that it is this same neglect which shelters the hatred that we as Gays and Lesbians must endure from others in our society.

And my frustration grows because I just don't see it coming to an end. Not yet, not here. Oh, I am hopeful that we will, as the civil rights anthem promises, overcome "someday", but damned if I can give you a sure-fire cure-all answer as to HOW!

And so this issue is an attempt to let some of our writers explore these issues, both as they relate specifically to the Lesbian and Gay community and to the larger society we live in. I'm convinced that the search for common ground from which we can bridge cultures, communities, and societies, is at least as essential to the progress and prospering of life on this planet as any of the historic pathways of scientific discovery have been. Indeed, more so, for we have reached a point where our knowledge seems to have surpassed our wisdom.

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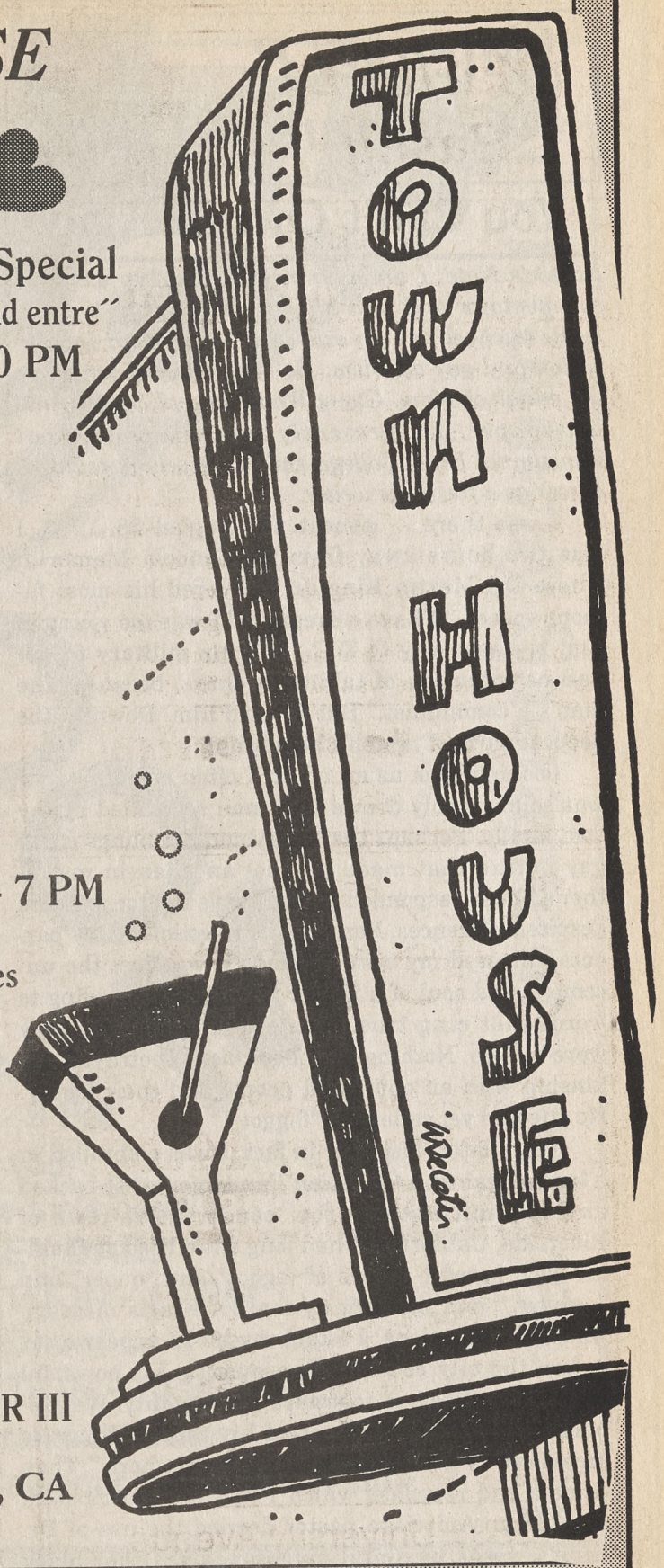
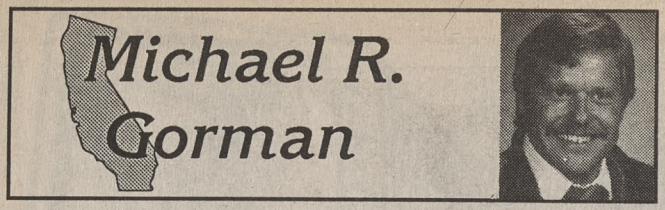




You Can't Own A King

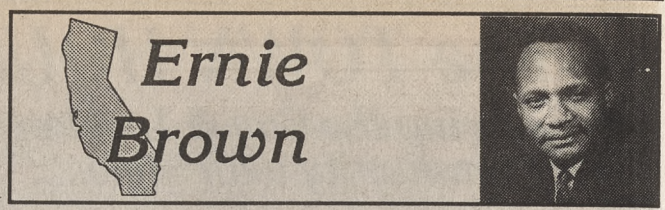
Editor's Note: I am extremely pleased to welcome commentator and poet Michael R. Gorman to PATLAR. Michael has an extensive background in education and gay activism. He most recently served as the editor of Mom, Guess What, a local Sacramento newspaper. He presently teaches English at Consumnes River College and is actively pursuing a career as a freelance writer.

I was there ... almost. On August 28. 1963. I was two hours away from the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin King Jr. delivered his most famous speech, "I have a dream ..." I was too young to find my own way to D.C., and my military father had no intention of taking us there, because "the man's a communist." But I heard him. Down in the deepest parts of myself I heard him.

Looking back as an adult, I often wonder why I was soinexorably drawn to a man so vilified by my own family. Perhaps the embryonic rumblings of my gay nature that made me feel an alien in my father's house responded to the man's cry for freedom despite differences. Perhaps his rejection by my parents mirrored my own. Perhaps it was just the uncomplicated soul of a tender little boy responding to words that rang true. Whatever the reasons, they were hidden. Nothing on the surface of betrayed any kinship with an oppressed people and their leader. No one had yet called me "faggot."

Years later, last year in fact, I was embroiled in a battle against a Christian Fundamentalist-backed anti-gay initiative in the conservative town of Riverside, California. I had long since become familiar with hateful shouts of faggot" and "queer" and "pervert," and my affinity for Dr. King's message was more conscious. I found myself in appearances before the city council often quoting his powerful pleas for justice and tolerance and equality. We prepared a pamphlet which used his words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Then came a sad response which I had not anticipated. An African-American pastor decried the use of Dr. King's words by sinful homosexuals. Other black Christians repeated the charge that sodomites had no claim to the memory of King. Letters to the local

Continued Next Page



A Man & His Dream...

I feel very fortunate to have met Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Yes, I met him at the "Big March" on Selma. It was an awe inspiring event. More inspirational was the man himself; when he spoke you stood up and listened. He made me realize that you have the power to make a difference. This may sound conceited, but I always knew that I was "somebody." But it was Dr. King who made me realize that I really was somebody who could make a difference.

He had all of the attributes that I admire in a person. He was god-fearing, proud, determined, peaceful and loving. Yes, when he spoke, people listened. He had that kind of charisma.

Sometimes I sit down and peruse the past, and wonder what would Dr. King say about our standards today: blacks killing blacks, our young generation caught up in drug wars, discrimination showing it's ugly head, racism running rampant. Enough already! What has happened to the dream? What happened to the view from the mountain top? We have come a long way but we still have a long way to go.

As Dr. King so aptly put it, if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, crawl, but by all means, "keep moving" upward.

Dr. King had a dream, and he shared it with the world. He went to the mountain top and told us about it. We as lesbians and gay men should reflect on this dream: we, too, are loving and peaceful people. Our young people in our society needs him today more than ever. There are still prejudices. Not only against blacks, but all minorities. As Dr. King once said, "we must all learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we perish as fools." Please! Let's keep the dream alive.

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GORMAN Continued

paper echoed the view that we gays were appropriating a message that did not apply to us. One woman said to me, "Dr. King belongs to US. You have no right to use his words." Tragically many of the gay activists began to advocate leaving King's words out of future communications in order not to offend those who otherwise might tolerate our cause. I disagreed, for reasons that become more clear and resonant the longer I struggle for the freedom of my own people.

Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. was an African-American. His strength of character grew out of his experience as a black man in a bigoted society. Certainly the power of his prose arose from his ethnic and religious heritage. Clearly he spoke, marched, lobbied and wrote out of his passion to see his people set free in deed as well as word. His identity and his work were deeply rooted in his race. Yet to limit his impact to one race is to diminish the stature of the man. His words rang with a universal resonance that cannot be confined by any one historic struggle. A poet's meaning goes beyond his metaphor. In the same way, Dr. King's gospel is more all-encompassing than its historic application to the black civil rights movement. That is why it had such power then. He spoke in words which at one time illuminated the plight of his people while touching the hearts of all people, without respect to the artificial barriers we raise between ourselves. Dr. King himself recognized this same breadth of relevancy in the words of a Galilean carpenter's son whom he often quoted.

Alice Paul wrote and spoke and worked tirelessly for women's suffrage. Mahatma Gandhi rallied the poor and downtrodden of colonial India. Henry David Thoreau appealed to the conscience of white America. Moses sought the emancipation of the Jews. Harriet Tubman led black slaves out of southern darkness into Canadian light. Are we to say that these men and women and others like them belong only to those whom they served most directly? What an impoverished world we would then create!

We have yet to erect a border, whether national, racial. cultural or sexual that can confine justice and equity and love. These things belong to all of us, and when they are temporarily denied to us we have the inherent right to demand that the deprivation stop. Martin Luther King Jr. did just that. He was ... is ... a voice for all of us, black, white, straight, gay, male, female, Jew, gentile. His message of liberty is beyond our utilitarian labels for ourselves and others. He was ... is ... an advocate of all people. Would that all of us were!

Mel Dahl

In My Opinion

Even though this column will not be appearing in print until February, I am writing it New Year's Day. It would be tempting to say that we are at a crossroads, except that we have been at a crossroads every New Year's Day for probably the last millennium. True, there are things about this crossroads that are different — the breakup of the Soviet Union, the fact that the Arabs and Israelis are actually talking to each other — but nobody would dispute that we live in interesting times and have for a long while.

We have grown accustomed to history revolving around conflict. How pleasant it would be if history were instead about working together, resolving differences amiably, and joining hands toward a common goal. It's true that blood and gore sell more newspapers than do quiet but determined peaceful progress, but I for one would at least like to give it a try.

Indeed, as gay people, this is our single most difficult obstacle to bringing about social change: the fact that people are taught from early childhood that there is an enemy out there, that rather than living in peace and harmony we must fight the good fight with all our might.

Fundamentalists, like the Reverend Jerry Falwell and Dr. James Dobson, have long preached that a civil war of values is raging in our nation and our world. They are right, but they have misidentified the protagonists. The battle is not between the blacks and the whites, or the straights and the gays, or the feminists and the traditionalists. Not at all. The battle is between those who persist in an "us against them" mentality of siege, and those who value diversity.

I believe everybody ought to be proud of who they are. I happen to be very proud of what I am — a gay white male — and I would not choose to be anything else. I happen to believe that black lesbians, Hispanic heterosexuals and Native American transsexuals should be equally as proud of who they are. The difference between me and David Duke is not that I don't think white people should be proud of their heritage, but that he fails to understand that other heritages are just as noble, just as worthy, just as valuable and just as praiseworthy.

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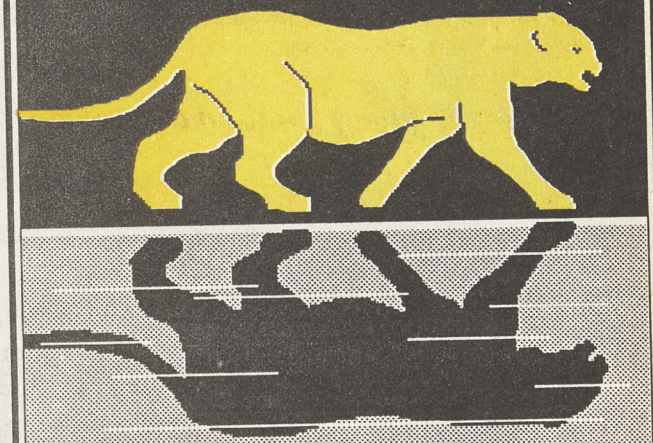

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DAHL Continued

One of the fundamental failings of our culture is that fear has been allowed too much free reign in setting public policy and in the way people live. At the personal level, an unwillingness to take risks — another term for fear — does everything from keep people out of relationships to keeping them in dead end jobs. California's yellow bellied, cowardly excuse for a governor has only recently given us an illustration of what happens when fear is permitted to set social policy. And at a national level, the harsh struggles for minorities to gain equal treatment before the law can be summed up in one word: fear. The majority which holds power is afraid of those who are different.

Sameness breeds comfort. It is comforting to be with others like oneself, whether that sameness is racial, sexual or religious. Much of the emotional discomfort that comes from being with those who are "different" is pure and simple fear of the unknown. "They are not like me, so how can I trust them?"

January is the month in which we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King did more to break down barriers between people than perhaps any other man of his era. He knew and understood that the first step toward breaking down

Continued Next Page

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Leonard Earl Johnson

Yours Truly in a Swamp

IIsaac Julien is the director as well as co-author, along with Paul Hallam and Dirrick Saldann McClintock, of the British film "Young Soul Rebels" currently flickering on the screens of American movie houses.

The film, set in 1977 London, tells of a pair of soul brothers with a love for funky sounds and a pirate radio station they dream of jockeying into fame and fortune. One, Chris (Valentine Nonyela) is straight and one, Caz (Mo Sesay) is gay. Both are black.

Their neighborhood is a proper British backdrop of white/black tension. Chris has a white mother. Both have punkish, white, post-school "friends" who are barely intelligent enough to clink beer bottles together while dangling their boots over the stone wall from where they idly sit, watching life pass.

One of these nascent skinheads chunks a bottle onto the empty head of Caz's white boyfriend, Billibud (Jason Durr), who is mindlessly trying to pass out literature to proudly beaming loyalists at the neighborhood's street fair for The Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Whites are not depicted as any too smart in this film. If that offends your sense of political correctness, you might want to skip this one. In truth, a lot of whites are not any too smart and yet still are (self?) perceived as leadership material.

If a snazzy, sexy cineplay about the English/black perspective interests you, then "Young Soul Rebels" will fill your bill nicely.

Beyond its politics — which make a colorful backdrop clamoring to upstage the plot — the film is a murder mystery and a pretty good one. (I won't tell the story and spoil it.) A word of warning, the accents are heavy and not always clear to the American ear. The photography is good, however, and at times excellent. What can be understood, along with the visual message, will likely carry you along well enough.

In a recent conversation with Isaak Julian in New York City, he responded to my criticism that the movie's sex-scenes were abortive by saying: "We never seem to get enough, do we? We always want to see more, don't we?"

His favorite scenes? "The sex-scene between Caz and Billibud, you wanted more of." And a

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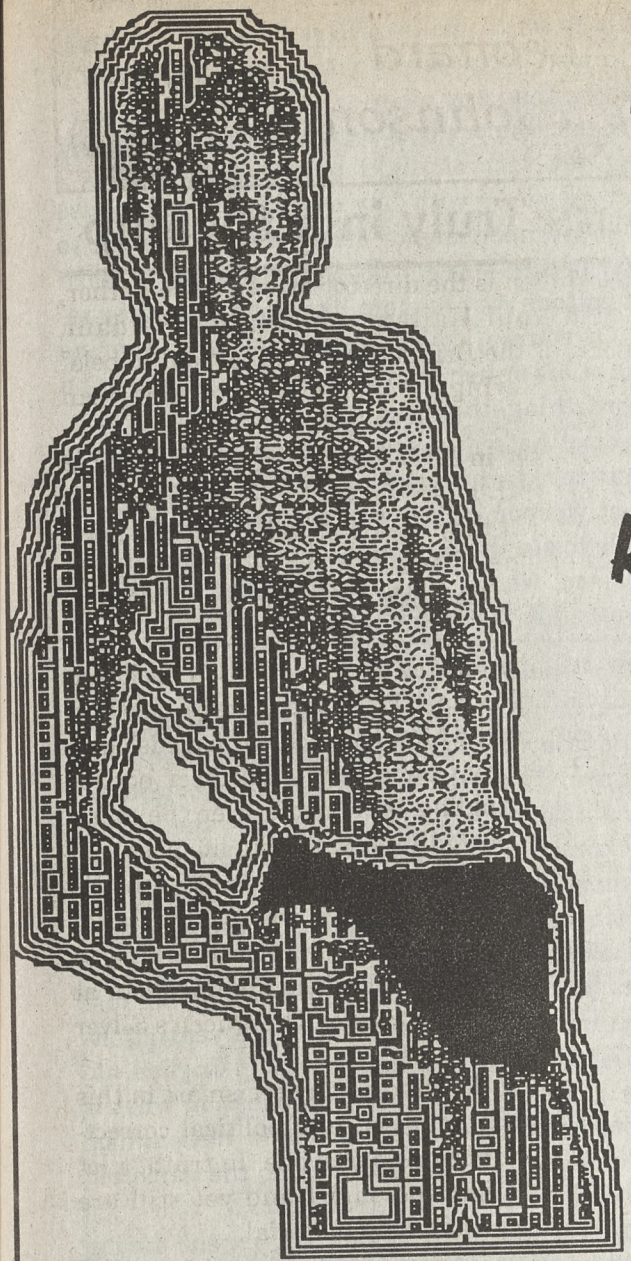

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BAIL Continued

barriers between people was to get them to stop being afraid of one another.

Unfortunately, among many gay people that lesson has been lost. I continue to be appalled at stories of gay white landlords who don't rent to minorities; of gay bars that don't admit or project hostility towards blacks or Hispanics; of gay business owners who only hire Caucasians. Can they honestly not see that the gay and lesbian community's struggle for equality rises or falls with our ability to stamp out fear and hostility toward those who are different, regardless of who "those" happen to be.

Bigotry is odious: it is particularly odious when it is practiced by those who should, by virtue of being at the receiving end of it, know better. We are by no means the only group that does it — the enmity between blacks and Jews is legendary — but I submit that we are the group that stands to lose the most from it. As the one minority group it is still acceptable to bash, we have less to gain, and much more to lose, from perpetuating an atmosphere of intolerance than any other.

This year I'm celebrating Dr. King's birthday by hanging out with straight people, not because I wouldn't rather be with "my own kind" but because I think it is important for straight people to get to know gay people. As they do, they will come to learn that, at bottom, we are more like them than they realized. Of course, to be prejudiced is to deprive someone of his or her humanity: rather than being a living, breathing, thinking, emoting, feeling person, the object of hatred is seen as being nothing more than that thing which makes him or her different. The great weapon in the war against fear is teaching people to see the humanity of other people.

Let's see, what's that I read somewhere about being created in the image of God ....

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JOHNSON Continued

rather charming argument between Chris's girlfriend (Sophie Okonedo) and dumb-but-beautiful Billibud over "Twenty quid T-shirts proclaiming commitment to revolution!" In this case the revolution proclaimed is that of the inalienable rights of two gay men overly-endowed by their Creater and fully displayed on the T-shirt in question and in a quick flash on the screen.

Julian picked 1977 as the film's setting because "that was my teen-age years, and the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, a high point in English nationalism. It was a time sort of prophetic of what is coming out in Europe today, a rise in nationalism and a re-drawing of political lines at the same old psyche boundaries are being resurrected."

Julian observed that the gay movement during this period is even less documented than poorly-documented British/blackfunk. His film sets out to make a personal record of both and does fine job of the task. The film sort of forces people to confront where they were then."

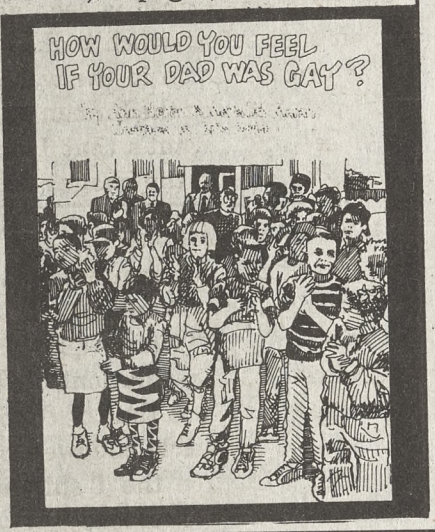
New film projects? The story of Roger Casement. Casement kept sexually explicit diaries that led to his hanging after prosecution by the same lawyer who prosecuted Oscar Wilde. The diaries are still banned, you have to read them in the British museum with a guard watching. LEJ: "Pee-Wee Herman need not apply, I guess."

I told Julian about the newly passed New Orleans ordinace to integrate private clubs and Carnival krewes. LEJ: "How about a film treatment of you as the first black Rex and Dorothy Mae Taylor, the black Concilmember leading the fight, as Queen of Comus?" "Sounds intetresting, send it to me."

Editor's Note: All you gay and lesbian families out there — talk to us! PATLAR is eager to share your experiences on parenting and working together as couples with our readers, but we need to hear it in your own words! Gay and lesbians across America want confirmation and reassurance that our family relationships are valid. Send in your stories — two to three typed pages. Help made a difference!

Alyson Releases New Story on Lesbian and Gay Families

How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay?
By Ann Heron and Meredith Maran
illustrated by Kris Kovick
An original trade hardcover; 32 pages; $14.95
ISBN 1-55583-188-5

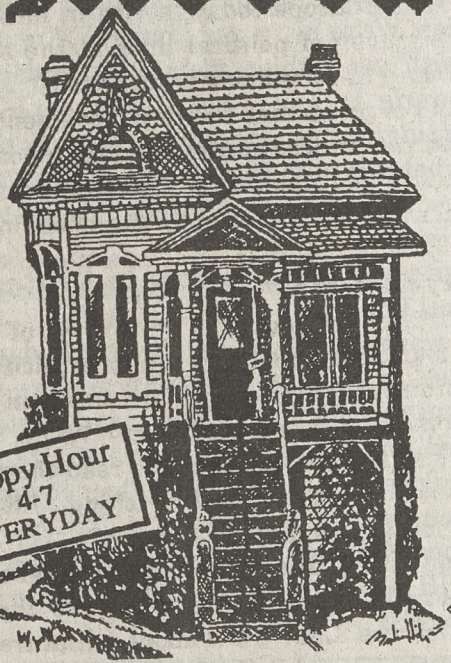


The "Alyson Wonderland" line of books from Alyson Publications has released a new work by authors Meredith Maran and Ann Heron entitled How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay? The story concerns a brother and sister who have very different approaches to dealing with their Dad's homosexuality. When Jasmine tells her classmates that her Dad is Gay, older brother Michael is furious and embarrassed. How Jasmine, her brother, her Dad and his lover, and eventually the whole school, learn through this experience of homophobia and acceptance is the focus of the rest of the story. Written to be easily understood by school-age children, "How Would You Feel..." offers valuable lessons to children of all ages and all Lesbian and Gay parents. Authors Maran and Heron share some of their insights and experiences in writing the book in this interview from Alyson publications.

You are raising two young boys together. How much of how Would You Feel...? was drawn from your own experience?

MM: The book is based loosely on a series of real incidents, but we took a lot of liberties with the story. Our older son told classmates that his moms were lesbians when he was

The Mercantile House



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in first grade. He was upset that words like gay and faggot were used as put-downs by the other children. We discovered that there were seven or eight "out" lesbian mothers with children at the school, and we all got together and spoke to the principal. He then instructed the teachers to treat homphobic remarks the same way they would racist ones. They were not to be tolerated. There was no assembly like there is in the book, but I think his intervention really helped.

AH: Both of our sons helped in the writing, too. We couldn't have done it without them. They read over the rough draft, added details, and provided insights. That is what gives the story its authentic feel. It turned out to be a wonderful vehicle for communication within our family. It opened up the whole topic of what it means to our sons to have lesbian mothers. It helped us talk about things.

Why did you choose to make the main characters black, although neither you nor your children are?

MM: I don't think our kids look at the book and ask why the main characters are black. They live in a black neighborhood; with black friends. Many of the kids in How Would You Feel...? are named for real kids. The experience in our neighborhood is far from that of the nuclear family, and it's that non-nuclear experience that we portray in the book. There is just a real lack of that in existing literature.

AH: We were committed to portraying a variety of ethnicities, but we also just wanted to reflect our kids' reality. Our sons go to a predominantly black school.

How do your sons feel about the book?

MM: They're proud of it. They saw copies for sale at Pride Day, and they were really excited by that. They are very guarded, though. They're protective of their privacy, and we're protective of their privacy, too.

AH: It's important to keep some distance for them. It's up to them whether they want to tell people about the book or not. It's up to them whether they want to tell their friends about Meredith and me. That's their right. Some people talk about "gay" families. We're not a gay family. We're a family with two lesbian moms. Our kids are too young to know yet if they are gay or straight. The idea is to support them in whatever path they choose, just as we wish we were supported in our "straight" families.

What was your primary goal in writing How Would You Feel...?

AH: I wanted to bring up the day-to-day realities, to present the reality for pre-adolescent school kids, without towing some political line. Parents need to realize that their children, no matter what their living situation, will have to integrate. You can't keep your children in a protective bubble. They will need to cope with a homophobic world.

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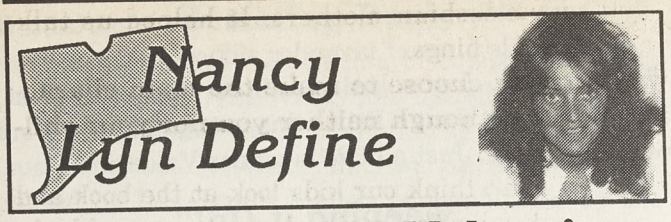

The Lavender Valentine

Do you remember being a kid and going down to the local card store to buy a bunch of valentines to hand out to all your classmates? Remember going through agonies of indecision about who should get which one? About whether certain classmates should get any at all? Remember the vague worry the night before that you might not get as many as your best friend? Remember picking out that very special one for the kid you had a secret crush on? Remember how very important it all was then?

Maybe it s time we go back to those days and learn the lesson we were probably too young to understand the first time around. Maybe it's time we remember how easily we wore our hearts on our sleeves in those days. Only this time we could do it for all of the persons who are HIV positive. For everyone who is living and surviving with AIDS. And maybe instead of a red heart we could urea a lavender ribbon. It doesn't have to be very big. It doesn't have to be pinned on any particular way and it doesn't have to be cut into any particular shape.

Most importantly, it doesn't have to be confined to Valentine's Day. It can be worn every day or any day that you feel like wearing it. It goes well with formal attire, afternoon classic or everyday slob wear. It doesn't say nothing about your orientation or about whether you're a Democrat or a Republican. Actually, it whispers rather than screams.

But its message is very clear. And to those persons who don't know what that message is, it gives us a chance to explain how we quietly perhaps, but with enormous concern and dedication are doing what we can to CARE about the AIDS epidemic. That we support compassion, awareness, responsibility and education. That we are quietly even conservatively if you must saying that AIDS is a personal issue to everyone of us, not just because we, ourselves, may be HIV positive, no just because the gay community has been hit so hard by the virus, not just because HIV has reached disastrous proportions, but because even one death from AIDS was one death too many.

There are some of us who have found the strength and conviction to go even further in this battle against AIDS. They are the members of ACT-UP and Queer Nation. There are some in our community who do not care for their tactics, but there are none who can question their courage. On this Valentine's Day, we should all remember the awareness and attention they are creating. And whether we agree with them or not, we cannot deny that these persons have heart. And they wear those hearts overtime they protest policy or demonstrate anger.

But not all of us are meant to rise up and shout. Some of us can only whisper. But what a sound a million whispers would create.

So, on this Valentines Day, we might do well to add a little something to the flowers and candy.

Continued Next Page

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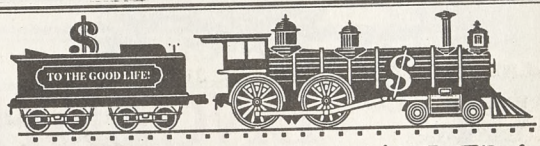

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DEFINE Continued

After all, it s only a little piece of lavender ribbon.

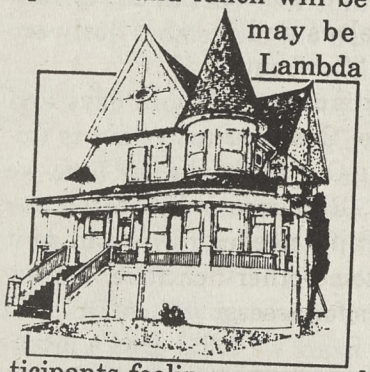
And it quietly says that we, each of us must accept the responsibility for just, equal and fair treatment of all human beings, regardless of HIV status. It whispers that we will each, individually, undertake to educate our immediate families, our close friends, and our co-workers to the truthful facts about AIDS. It promises that we will each, individually, fight to remedy the ignorance, intolerance and baseless fear among those persons we come into contact with. Perhaps we will do it quietly, even softly. But we will do it.

Remember passing out Valentine cards to your classmates when you were a kid? Remember how important it all was then? Remember how easily we all wore our hearts on our sleeves? Remember how happy we were when we received lots of cards from our friends?

Maybe it s time we go back to those days when we thought the world was good when we thought that each little heart-shaped card was important. It s only a little piece of lavender ribbon, a gentle symbol of caring. Just a little reminder that each of us, all of us, care. Just a little whisper against the wind of intolerance. Just a little lavender Valentine.

"Keeping It Up!" Returns to Sacramento

"Keeping It Up!," a workshop for gay and bisexual men, developed by Dr. Martin (Marty) McCombs, returns to Sacramento on March 7. The workshop is sponsored by the Lambda Community Center AIDS Response Programs, in cooperation with SAF and WCIC/Project Survival, and will be held in the WCIC Auditorium at 3555 3rd Avenue, Sacramento. A five to ten dollar donation is requested and lunch will be provided. Reservations may be made by calling the Lambda Center at 442-0185.



The workshop is designed to provide support to gay and bisexual men in making behavioral changes and to supplement healthy living skills. The entire experience leaves participants feeling empowered to take charge of their sexuality and with a renewed sense of self-worth.

Dr. Marty McCombs received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in June 1989 and was the recipient of the H.A. Rhodes Research Excellence award. He was health educator for the Stop AIDS Project at the Hollywood Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center from April 1989 to Fall 1991 when he became director of counseling services for The Center.

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Resisting Racism

The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) has issued a manual to help the gay and lesbian community explore the issue of racism. Resisting Racism: An Action Guide, edited by Dr. Gerald Mallon and published by the Racism Task Force of NABWMT, is a tool which should be a part of every gay and lesbian organization's library.

The revised manual is divided into four parts: Workshop Outlines, Resource Materials, Essays, and Bibliographies.

Workshop Outlines is a series of twenty ideas for workshops to be used by groups to delve into the issue of racism in individuals, in groups, and in our society at large.-It contains over twenty workshop outlines, each with the purpose of exploring the roots of racism in ourselves and in our society at large. Titles range from "Confronting Racism in the Gay and Lesbian Community," and "Personal Awareness Inventory," to "Consciousness Raising on Racism," and "Examining Our Racial Experience."

The second section, Resource Materials, provides some of the materials needed for use in the workshops, as well as some other helpful information. There are checklists for assessing the degree of

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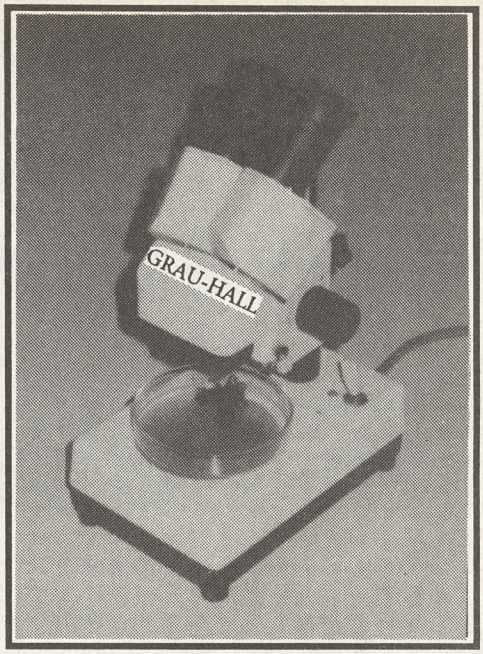

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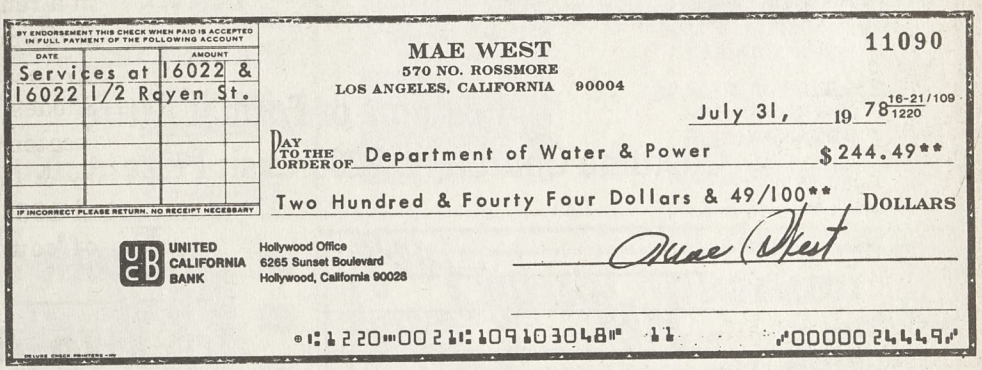

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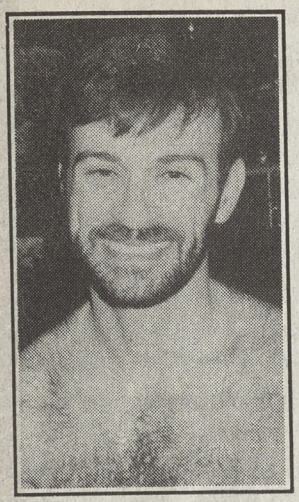
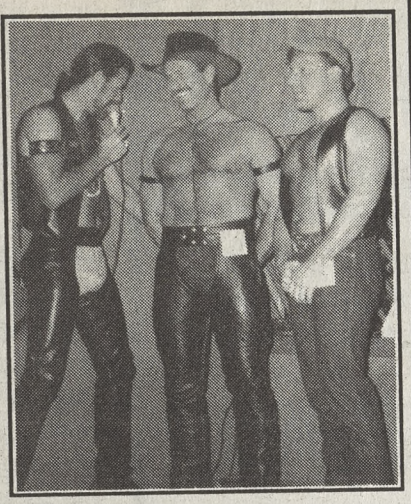
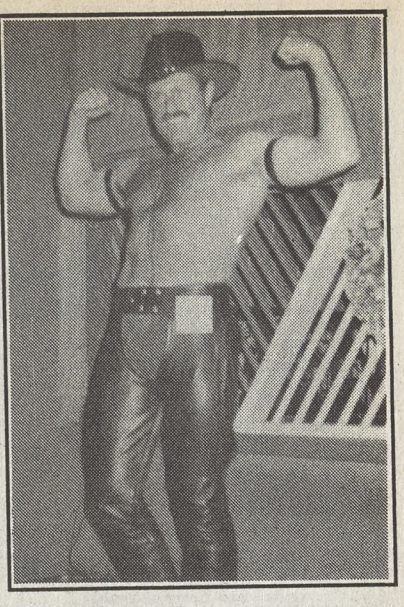
The Wreck Room's Bare Chest Contest



Each month Sacramento's Wreck Room hosts a Bare Chest Contest to select models for an AIDS Benefit Calendar. Coordinated by Randy Gray (right, with microphone), former Mr. Leather Sacramento, each event features hot local men for a great cause!

Photos by Martin Casey





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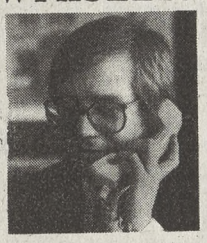

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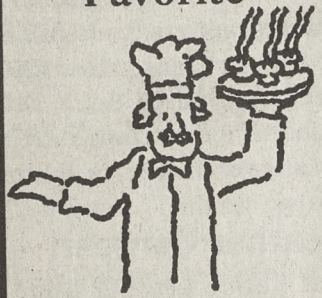

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racist feelings and attitudes of persons, reprints of articles from the gay press dealing with racism and race-related issues, and other materials that provide useful data for combating racism.

The third section, Essays, provides the reader with a selection of writings by nationally-known gay and lesbian activists. It also provides the reader with NABWMT's positions on racism, bar discrimination, and the importance of multiculturalism in our gay and lesbian movement.

Section Four, Bibliographies is made up of three exhaustive lists, covering works of fiction and non-fiction., Native American views and 90 reading selections and provides a sound basis for anyone wishing to know more about how to combat racism. Altogether, these bibliographies are indispensable for anyone wishing to be well-read on the topic of combating racism

The Resisting Racism Manual can be ordered by sending a check or money order for $19.95, payable to NABWMT Publications, PO Box 408641, Chicago, IL 60640. It is also available at most gay and lesbian bookstores. And if you don't see it, ask for it.

On Screen Women's Film Festival Commemorates the Dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The 8th annual ON SCREEN Honoring Women's Work, co-sponsored by Northern California Women in Film and Television and Union Bank, took place Friday through Sunday, January 17 through 19,1992, at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street at Valencia in San Francisco.

On Screen was a three-day festival celebrating the work of women in film, video and television through screenings of feature films, animation, shorts, documentaries, and television programs; a seminar on women cinematographers and editors and another on funding independents; the 1992 Career Achievement Awards hosted by Actor Ella Joyce (*Roc*) and her husband actor Dan Martin (*New Rin Tin Tin*); and a showcase of work by the women of Frameline.

Central Valley Leather Contest!

The California Central Valley Leather Daddy and Daddy's Boy Contest will be held on Sunday, February 16th, 10:30 p.m. Hosted by The Wreck Room at 2513 Broadway, Sacramento, the admission is free. This promises to attract a really hot crowd, so plan to be there early and remember that Monday is a holiday (Washington's Birthday) — relax, enjoy the evening, and sleep in.

Gathering, Asian American Women Art Exhibit

The Lite Rail Gallery will host Gathering, a juried exhibition of visual and performance art presented by the Asian American Women Artists Association at the new 922 - 12th Street Performance and More Center from February 3 to March 6. A reception will be held February 15th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Asian American Women Artists Association was founded in 1989 by two women — Florence Wong of Sunnyvale and Betty Kano of Berkeley. From a handful of Asian women artists at its first meeting, the group has grown to 75 members. While the AAWAA is a united group with a purpose, it is a diverse group of members with a great range of backgrounds, ages, experiences and styles of expression. In addition to the visual artists, there are also members involved in other artistic forms such as performance, music, design, video, writing, and poetry.

Gathering is a tribute to the late Hisako Hibi. Please call (916) 441-1013 for more information.

Lambda's Book Report Spotlights Johnson

The Washington, D.C. based lesbian/gay literary magazine Lambda Book Report features two reports by New Orleans based writer and The New Voice's New Orleans correspondent, Leonard Earl Johnson. The two book reports are in the 1992 issue.

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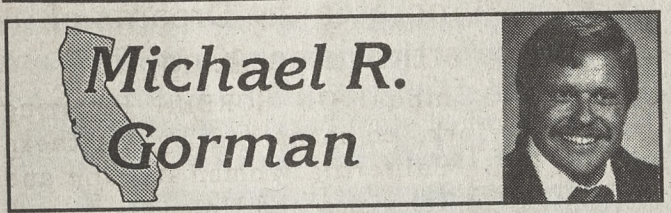

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And the slave whippings they covered
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And blistered black hands
They buried beneath manicured lawns
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When babes were sold from the breast
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"We are in the import/export business"
And the wax filled the holes
Light the fire
Children of Martin
But be sure
To burn the tilt-top tables

$POTLIGHT

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Fantasy Voyages for men and women now features a motorized yacht for weekly excursions to the Bahamas — a relaxed, private setting for 22 people. And Fantasy's "Star Flyer", a tall sail ship, will take 172 adventurous people through the Caribbean in June.

Windstar will offer a gay-only cruise to the Caribbean in April, and Olivia's women's cruises will tempt you with several sailings to Alaska, the Caribbean, and the Greek Isles..

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Muse News

It's Valentine's Day time; do you have something planned? The commercial media aim party favors at couples, but, as we all know, February 14 is for celebrating with any loved one(s).

With music? Ada Kory, who has toured solo and with a band, recorded her debut disc, *Opportunity Knocks More Than Once*, on her home mini-studio. Distributed by Ladyslipper, Inc., the album forays into ecofemism and children's connections to nature; "Liza's Eyes" is a delightful, acoustic ode to independence. *Feed The Fire* by Marlene (part of her thesis for a Masters degree in Women's Studies from Antioch University) addresses the personal and political in its alternately fiery, chanting, reggae-rich, earthy music. Especially potent is the Ferron-poignant "Samantha," about a girl taught to distrust herself; also "Was A Woman," a tale of freedom fighters.

Leah Zicari also has a Master's degree (in classical guitar), and has turned her playing feminist cultural network. Her debut release, *Wouldn't That Be Fun?*, is technically exquisite and homo-affirming, not to mention sweet and funny. The title cut derives its name from a serious but sing-song litany of possible careers for modern young girls (including nuclear physicist and feminist guitarist). There is the cleverly adapted "What Kind of Self-Respecting Lezzie Am I? (Leah's first tours were with Romanovsky and Phillips) and the country-tinged "Martina," a lust fantasy about you-know-who. Tops for Valentine's Day is the perceptive, beautiful "Irony," about resonances between lovers.

For more explicit love songs, check out Helen Hooke's newest, *Verse-Ability* (remember Helen from her touring feminist country/rock band of the 1970s?). Well, she's back, with a heartfelt electronic sound. The best of the bunch are "Step By Step," a chronicle of wanting in its early stages, and "Better Than Dream Lover," with tinkling keyboards and crooning guitar. Equally loving, though instrumentally so, is *Raindreaming*, from Gwen Jones and Kayla Kirsch. Two acoustic guitars rise and fall in musical parallels and harmonies in "Sky Above Clouds;" "New Zealand" features a dynamically

Continued Next Page

Book Shelf

Brother To Brother:
New Writings by Black Gay Men
Edited by Essex Hemphill
Alyson Publications

"we are men of color, adorned in shades of tan, red, beige, black, and brown.

"Brothers born from the same earth womb.
Brothers reaching for the same star.

"Love me as your equal.
Love me, brother to brother."

— Lloyd Vega, 'Brothers loving brothers'

This anthology, which I can't resist quoting, is an incredible examination of the black gay experience: repression, celebration, resistance, survival —

"No fire has destroyed my best and most malleable stuff; each time I have risen a purer gold iridescing lavender. So, if the worst of it is a supernova, I will remember: when stars burst in death dark new worlds begin. I have risen before; I will rise again... After the worst of it... I will rise again."

— Craig A. Reynolds, 'The worst of it'

Fiction and non-fiction, memoir, poetry and prose come together in a vivid kaleidoscope of self-definition. The first section, 'When I think of home', sees the black gay man in relation to childhood, family, and coming of age. The second section, Baby, I'm for real,' sings "the resounding refrain/of grown men in love. (— Donald Woods) Section three, 'Hold tight, gently', speaks heartbreakingly of death, courage, and continuity. A short piece by Kenneth McCreary entitled 'Remembrance' leaves the reader gasping:

"Several weeks later I was cleaning the garage and found one of his old shirts tossed in a corner. It still smelled like him — that light orange odor. I also found our old beach ball, but I could not let the air out — his breath was in it."

The fourth section, 'The absence of fear,' probes the woundedness of the African-American community, and spells out how this contributes to homophobia. "The argument that homosexuality threatens black male-female relationships and the

See Page 28

POST Continued

paired vocal duet. Kayla is currently working on a second recording, of original children's songs, with Miriam Abrams; Gwen is also composing anew, perhaps for a follow-up to *Raindreaming* with Kayla.

More sex, you say? How about the eponymous debut release from the irreverent Girls in the Nose (they're due to have another out soon, but don't miss their first). "Come and Die" is raw raunch, about death during orgasm, or, lesbian sex for all ages. The rockabilly "Meat" gives graphic and teasing metaphors of distinctly non-vegetarian cravings, and "Bite Me" brings Kay Turner's searing vocals and an accessible pop rhythm to the taboo of rougher lesbian passion. Finally, Anne Seale's *Sex For Breakfast* touches on previously little-mentioned topics: female body hair, the spelling of women/womyn/wimmin, lesbian cemeteries, pick-ups in women's bookstores, and hyperspeed lesbian merging. The title cut just about says it all, though: easy, non-caloric, how about some a.m. delight?

You could plan your own erotic repasts at the renowned Clit Club in New York or San Francisco's Klitz Club or Ecstasy Lounge. Rumor has it that, in Harlem, The Netherlands, exists a lesbian sex club beyond compare, called Wildside, replete with hostesses, lube, and many forms of latex and sex toys. En route, a good read might be the hot poetic words of Jan Hardy's new anthology *Wanting Women* [Sidewalk Revolution Press, PO Box 9062, Pittsburgh PA 15224 or (412) 361-8927]. A trip to Wyoming in the spirit of carnal delight? Wyoming's "Grand Teton" actually means "Big Tit" in French. (Not so funny is the reality that the Committee to Restore Decency to Our National Parks has written to the Department of the Interior about it).

Jaunt with Robin Tyler Productions on the first women's international tour of Australia: billed as a ten-day trip to the Bush, the Beach, the Blue Mountains, and the Barbie, it is first class all the way and costs between $2,795 and $2,995 per person: call (818) 893-4075 or write: 15842 Chase Street, Sepulveda CA 91343. For solitude à la Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own is a cozy low budget bed and breakfast for women located in the heart of Seattle, Washington. Contact owner K.C. Spangler at (206) 328- 0379 or 819 25th Avenue South, Seattle WA 98144.

There is a safe haven awaiting you, should your travel itinerary include the east coast of Florida; Rusty Gordon is working on a network of "Safe Havens," i.e. private property owned and lived on by womyn who can afford to put up traveling women in tents/RVs for short or long stays. For news on her place or her ideas, call (407) 686-1354 or write: 1156

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Park Lane, West Palm Beach FL 33417. Anywhere you go, within the U.S., you can find out about lesbian/gay bars through the new telephone directory: (900) 976-CLUB at $2.95 per minute.

Keep in mind that we are everywhere! Sheila James Kuehl, who played Zelda Gilroy on "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis" from 1959-63 publicly announced her lesbianism recently. Oregon's only gay legislator, Democratic Representative Gail Shibley, has been targeted by right-wing groups in her state who are working to ban public funding of any gay-related activities or programs. Happily, Gail is being supported by the local lesbian and gay community and by Washington D.C.'s Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. To contribute to GLVF's work, write: 1012 14th Street NW 07, Washington, D.C. 20005 or call (202) 842-8679.

Also in our nation's capitol, a D.C. judge has ruled that a lesbian couple may adopt each other's children. The women, who have been involved for eight years, are now legal co-parents of the two tots, ages 2 and 5. What a step toward the complete legal rights of lesbians. Similarly, city officials in Denver, Colorado finally agreed to allow sick leave for a lesbian who took time off from work to care for her lover/life partner. Lest we be too ironically optimistic, the University of Michigan Board of Regents rejected proposals to allow lesbian/gay couples to cohabitate in university family housing.

As always, please send your muse news to Lady Phoenix Productions, PO Box 207, Alameda CA 94501 or call (510) 273-9496.

HERZIG Continued

black family lacks credibility. Homosexual love does not destabilize true heterosexual love relationships, the black family, or the black community. ...The freeing of black gay genius requires that we develop institutions to secure the foundation of the black gay community.... To the extent that our people are homophobic and heterosexist, our tasks become more difficult."

— Ron Simmons, Ph.D. 'Some thoughts on the challenges facing black gay intellectuals'

One is tempted to share quote after quote — there is so much here. Let me simply say that "Brother To Brother" is the best anthology I have encountered in a long time, and leave you with this, from Marlon Riggs' 'Tongues untied' ...

"I was mute,
tongue-tied,
burdened by shadows and silence.
Now I speak and my burden is lightened
lifted free.

Justin

LeatherSpace

In most cases in our lives, when we are going to make an investment in something that we want, we spend time shopping around for the best quality at the best prices. Buying leather is no different. The wide variety in leather look items runs from a simple armband to a full dress leather outfit. It is very important not to just rush out and buy the first thing you find, for like anything else there is a great difference in the quality and price.

HANKIE CODES:
Gray
Left Pocket - Bondage & Light S/M Top
Right Pocket - Bottom For the Same

To find a leather jacket almost any leather store can provide a fairly good selection, the difference is price and style. Most larger cities have specialty leather/S-M stores, such as Image Leather in San Francisco or Second Skin in New Orleans. Stores like Wilson's Leather has an excellent selection in general leather jackets and also pants, gloves, vests, shorts, and hats. Also, the Miller Outpost stores and The Underground stores have a good general selection at good prices. The best time to go shopping for this type of leather is in the spring and summer because most of these stores are running great sales on leatherwear. You can easily pick up a good jacket that will last you for years for around $100. Pants run from about $80 to $300 depending on style. Vests, hats, and shorts will run you from $50 to $100 also depending on style.

The biggest factors in your shopping for leather clothing need to be the image you wish to project and the way you intend to use them. Also pay attention to the quality of the leather and the way the item is made. When you are checking for quality carefully examine the type of leather used. Make sure that all of the leather is of the same type. Sometimes the manufacturer will use a high grade thicker leather for the outside shell, and a lower grade thinner cut for the inside and accessory areas. This can cause the shell to separate or tear away from the inside with stress or over time, and you will spend a small fortune in repairs.

Also, the stitching is a real must to pay atten-

Continued Next Page

JUSTIN Continued

tion to. In all cases, the better constructed item will be double row stitched and of a thicker and same grade leather throughout. A friend of mine bought a $300 jacket from a store and after only a few wearings there were several areas where the stitches were coming apart and the belt around the bottom had split due to the fact that it was made with three different pieces of leather of different thicknesses sewn together. The inside liner was coming apart as well. So even in a more expensive item you must still check for quality.

One other thing you must keep in mind is that leather will stretch and shrink in ways unlike most other types of material. When you buy a pair of leather pants they should be a little on the tight side so they will stretch to form fit you. For this reason it isn't really wise for you to lend out your pants to someone else as they may stretch them out so they wont fit you quite right afterwards.

HANKIE CODES:
Mustard
Left Pocket - Has 8" Or More
Right Pocket - Wants A Big One

When you start to acquire leather it is also a good idea to get a good type of leather cleaner and conditioner to keep the leather clean and soft. If for some reason you need to shrink or tighten up your leather one way to do this is to take a spray bottle of water and mist down the outside shell of the item so that it is moist but not wet. Then take the item and turn it inside out and place it in a dryer on warm heat but only for about 10 to 15 minutes and then check it. Continue this in 5 minute cycles only until the item is mostly dry but not hot. After the item is cool use a good leather conditioner on it to keep the skin soft and able to breath. Depending on the amount of time you wear your leather you should take it in once a year or so to have it cleaned by a professional leather cleaner, and at the same time you can have any needed repairs done.

When it comes to accessories there is a lot of room to work with. Some of the items you can get include belts, armbands, handcuffs, small whips, and a large varsity of harnesses. All of these things depend completely on the style or look that you wish to project to others and in some cases the message you wish to send to someone else. There is a special code in the leather world that is used to send out messages about yourself or your desires to other people. In the general gay world it is still known that if you wear your keys on the right side it means that you are a bottom and worn on the left that you are a top. This code is also very widely used in the leather world but instead of (or in addition to) your keys, this applies to how you wear your accessories. If you are a top then you would wear your handcuffs, armbands, etc. on the left side and a bottom on the right.

Another form of clothing code is the wearing of different colored handkerchiefs in the right or left back pocket. When this type of coding first started there were only a few colors and types of handkerchiefs that were used. The basic idea of right-left bottom-top still applies, but it also means that if worn on the left you are looking for that type and worn on the right that you are that type or into that type of action. Even though there are now some 60 hankie codes it is a good idea to pick up this list at a leather bar or store so that the next time you see someone wearing a hankie you will be able to understand the message that is being sent out. A lot of men and women in the gay world use this kind of color code signaling even if they are not into the leather scene.

The best way to shop around for your leather look is to go to places where you can see other people in leather and check out the many different styles to see what's out there and then check out what's available in the shops. If you really want a true custom look you can have just about anything designed and custom made for you, but this can be very expensive.

Even if you don't have any leather and just want to check out the scene you can still blend in fine just by wearing an old pair of Levi's and a tee shirt. The next time we will discuss the psychology of the leather attitude, so until then be happy and safe and try it in leather.

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Views From River City

Editor's Note: It is extremely important that all event information be given to Ernie Brown by the 20th of each month to ensure that it gets into PATLAR. We deeply appreciate your cooperation!

Alright you lovers or would-be lovers out there. This is your month to find Mr. or Ms. Right. Remember, love makes time pass and time makes love pass. Before you make that commitment, remember there are different kinds of love, but they all have the same aim: possession. In love somehow a man's heart is always either exceeding the speed limit or getting parked in the wrong place. Here in Sacramento at the bars you might find your true love. Good hunting.

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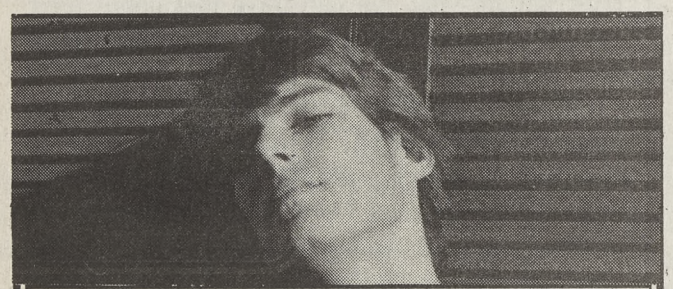

Leonard Earl Johnson

"Bourbon Street, #13"

14"x11" (35 1/2x28cm) black & white poster from Johnson's world famous Bourbon Street series. This disdainful youth draped against New Orleans' louvered shutters graced by "New Orleans", in the left corner, image title "Bourbon Street, #13" and the artist's names at the bottom for only $20 and $35 overseas.

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Over seas orders US $25
Allow 6 weeks

Here goes: The Valentine's Erotica Ball, a benefit for the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, will be held at the Capitol Plaza Halls fraternity room, 1205 9th Street, February 15th. Costume or formal attire, music by Joey. $30 per person; $50 per couple. Tickets are available at Lioness Books. You must be 18 years or older; ID required. For more information call 457-5830.

Coming to the Wreck Room Sunday, February 16 is the Central Valley Leather Daddy/Daddy's Boy contest! Time: 10:30 p.m., admission free. On February 14 at the Townhouse the upstairs dining room will have a special for lovers! The very next night a the Townhouse, February 15, that lovely lady of songs will be appearing again, Linda Snooks.

Joseph's T & C will feature a special menu on Valentine's Day/Night. Lady Garnet Presents A Red & White Sweethearts Ball. At Joseph's T & C February 8. Starting at 8 p.m. $5 admission. Coming to the Merc February 13 CGNIE Show (this is a big one) starting 8 p.m.

Shakers on Broadway are presenting a special menu for Valentine Day. $20 per person. Unfortunately, they just called me to tell me that they are all booked up, (sorry)! Here is something new. Take note: Shakers is starting a new Shakers Singles Club. They will be held every Wednesday night, 5 p.m. til 11 p.m. exclusively for lesbians and gays. It sounds great. For more information check with Shakers.

Ernie and Jerry present a love or lust weekend in San Diego. 2 nights and three days at the Radisson Harbor View Hotel. $145 per person. However, at this moment, we are sold out. But we do have stand-by's in case of cancellation. So far seventy six are going.

Faces is having a grand Valentine's Day celebration (as they always do) check it out! The Merk will be hosting another Pisces party Monday, March 6, starting at 4 p.m.

Little tidbits: Lakish's auction held at the Merk a few weeks ago brought in over $700 for the Fairy Godfather Fund. She extends her thank yous to everyone for their participation. Mike Coutre (Western bartender) happy birthday! If anyone is interested yours truly's birthday is this month, February 24. Keep those cards and letters coming. I personally would like to thank everyone that is traveling with me to San Diego. We are going to have a good time. But remember: we represent the Capitol of California, so all seventy-six of us are traveling goodwill ambassadors. Lets have a good time. Again I would like to thank all of my friends down in San Diego for helping me to make this trip possible. Happy Presidents Day. See ya....

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY SERVICES of Tulare County announces to the gay and lesbian community a newly installed AIDS Hotline. 1-800-640-AIDS. The hotline provides referrals to medical, legal, hospice, mental health, and substance abuse assistance. The hotline also provides community contacts for support groups or just a friend that will listen.

GAY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians and Gay Men with children. We are also a supportive environment for Lesbians and Gay Men considering parenthood. Meetings will be held every 4th Sunday. For more info, call 916-387-8862. [24A]

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AIDS FOUNDATION case management, emotional & practical support can now be accessed thru 1-800-655-2437 for information and service to those infected with HIV.

OPEN ARMS COMMUNITY CHURCH a non-denominational church for all lifestyles now meets on Sunday, 7PM at Faith Lutheran Church 4930 Newanga Ave, Santa Rosa. Rev. John I. Torres, Pastor. Call 707-546-8106 for information. [24AS]

DESERT SHORE CAMP-OUT for women / Dinah Shore Weekend 1992. Lake Cahuilla County Park, La Quinta, CA. Friday, March 27 to Sunday, March 29. $65.00/person camping fee, $10.00/person, day use fee. Rosemary Woodard Productions P.O. Box 783, Thousand Palms, CA 92276. 916-343-2207.

FREE OF CHARGE ACTIVITIES AT LAMBDA: Smoking Cessation Clinic starts Jan 15 & will run for 7 weeks, 5:30 -7pm. Stop Smoking Self-Help, drop-in groups meet Mondays at 5:30 pm. Auditions for "Clearing the Air" a gay/lesbian youth play, will be held Jan 25-26 at 2 pm. Gay/Lesbian Youth Movie Night on Jan 11, 5-8pm. Phone the Lambda Community Center at 916-442-0185 for more info.

QUEER NATION MEETS the first 3 Mondays of the month at 8:00pm and the fourth week at 8:00. For location call: Queerline 916-863-2158 ext. 3030.

SACRAMENTO AIDS FOUNDATION has a new address: 920 20th St. (2nd floor) Sacramento, CA 95814. Ph# 916-448-2437.

ORGANIZATION

MAN/BOY LOVE. NAMBLA seeks justice for men and boys interested in consensual relationships. Our monthly Bulletin features news, fiction, letters, pictures. Mailed discreetly. Subscribe! $25/year NAMBLA, PO Box 174, NY, NY 11018. [220]

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ROOMMATES

MATURE GAY/LESBIAN for beautiful private room/bath/entrance in elegant El Dorado Hills home. Garage available. Have 2 dogs, 3 cats. $395/mo. & 1/4 utilities. Michael: 916-933-4656. [22RS]

FEMALE NON-SMOKER for 2+2 nice home near Elk Grove, $325/mo. 916-682-0882. [22RS]

JOBS

MALE MODELS WANTED (18-25) for legit work. Send photo and resume to: Patlar (attn: JY) P.O. Box 1413, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

ASSITANT MANAGER Progressive Amador County Store seeks young aggressive self-starter. Send resume to: Box 1475 Sutter Creek, CA 95685. [22JS]

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED part time. $7/hour. Must be willing to work nude. Send brief description to PATLAR (PL-153), PO Box 1413 West Sacramento, CA 95691. [NCJ]

HOUSEKEEPING WORK needed by good worker. 916-481-2269 [22JS]

SERVICES

7 VERY PLEASURABLE ways to satisfy your new lover. For adult materials send $19.95 to Box 277964 Sacramento, CA 95827 [22SS]

MASSAGE

ENJOY THE COMFORT and convenience of a sensual, full body massage in your home by a CMT. Evening same day/next day appt. Chuck 916-783-9669. [1NVME]

MASSAGE FOR MEN. For the very best full body erotic massage by a handsome young body builder. Call Scott, CMT 916-646-3573. [27ME]

MASSAGE BY ALAN. Lean, tan and hot. Available PM 916-448-7445. [21ME]

GERMAN MASSAGE write kurt for appt. 4308 Figwood Way, Sacramento. Out calls only!! [22ME]

SACRAMENTO ECSTASY Enjoy the experience of a sensual nurturing touch from a hot Sacramento man. Call Dan 916-487-7829. [24ME]

PATLAR'S
PERSONAL TOUCH LINE
See The Classified Section or call to hear personals

1-900-835-0769
This call will cost $1.98 per minute.

The publisher and editor of PATLAR reserve the right to edit or reject materials submitted for posible publication which they consider to be in poor taste or which might result in legal action.

REVITALIZING FULL body massage by Allan, 916-457-5960. [27ME]

PUBLICATION

OUT OF THE DARKNESS: a powerful book of illustrations as seen in Patlar! Send only $4.95 to: Linda Welch P.O. Box 120793 Nashville, TN 37212. A great gift idea! [110PN]

PERSONALS

FRIENDS OF BOBBETTE I've made many friends whom the years have scattered. If you're out there, take a moment now to write me. Let's recapture the warmth of our friendship and share our joys again. Write Bobbette, The Mercantile Saloon, 1928 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. [17PL].

YOUNG AT HEART, early 50's, Caucasian looking for same for friendship and ? Sacramento area. Call Voice Mail Box #1002, 900-835-0769.

GWM, 44 GOOD LOOKING, 6' HZL, brown moustache, firm build, hairy chest. Seeks same hairy chest a must, 25-45. Call Voice Mail Box #1001, 900-835-0769.

6 FOOT 2, EYES OF BLUE I have written, you write, too. Write Patlar PL-155, c/o Patlar, PO Box 22402, Sacto.,CA 95822.[26PL]

REGULAR GUY, 6'4",175 nice looking, seeking others similar for discrete encounters. No smoking or drink. Call Voice Mail Box #1000, 900-835-0769

WINTER BREAK '91! Lay back and enjoy my oral talents. I'm horny for young (19-35), well built hung studs to service. Write PATLAR AD-16, PO Box 1413, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

STAR TREK FANS GM, 28, desires correspondence with other Gay/Lesbian Trekkers. Discuss characters, plots, effects, philosophy, and other interests. Potential "official" fan club? Voice Mail Box #1005, 900-835-0769

YOUNG STUD WANTED GBM, 32 yrs., Blk/Brn 6'0" masc., (bot.), seeks masc. GW/GHM (top) for companionship. My offer includes free living, travel, plus other benefits. Serious HIV- only. Call Voice Mail Box #1006, 900-835-0769.

EXPERIENCE MY EXPERIENCE GWM 6'1", 190# young 50, brown thinning hair and salt & pepper mustache. Healthy HIV-

Masculine & unassuming. Thin, healthy, hairy, clean a plus. Likes Gay/Bi/Straight. Safe action. Call Voice Mail Box#1004, 900-835-0769.

HANDSOME WELL-BUILT FRIENDLY ULCA grad 25, 5'6", 145, GAM enjoys comedy, movies, music, tennis, body building. Seeks fit, non-smoking WM 21-35 for friendship and ? Voice Mail Box #1007, 900-835-0769

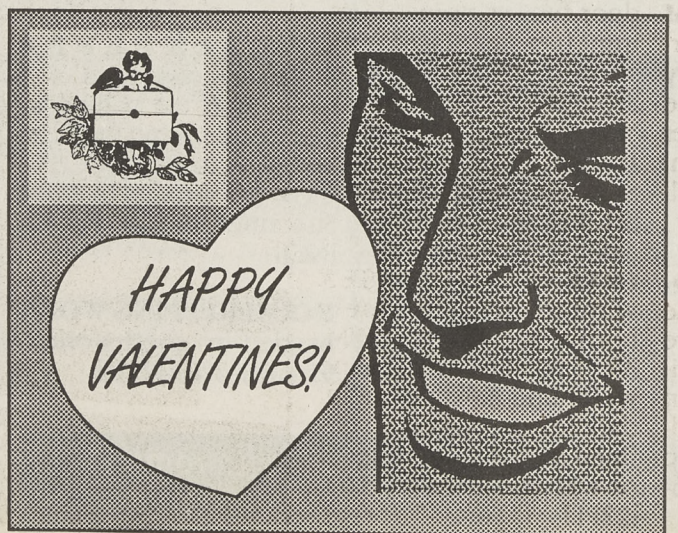
BROWN/BLUE EYES, 37 slender, non-smoker, relationship oriented. Seeks non-balding GM 27-39, likes movies, hiking, roller coasters, gardening, cards. 916-922-4781. [21PL]

MODESTO YUPPIE Italian 40 y.o. talented, looking for similar responsible guy into friendship leading to relationship. P.O. Box 577192 Modesto, CA 95357. [22PL]

THIS IS BOX 1001 seeking person named Kurt. Please call 209-472-7461 want very much to hear from you. Lost your phone number. Please call. [22PL]

STEADY LOVER WANTED Tall butch versatile male 6'2" and over, 175 to 205 lbs, uncut, muscular build, bubble butt & single sought by black shemale for serious monogamous relationship. Photo! [22PL]

CLEAN BOTTOM MAN GWM 37 handicapped wants to meet top for a one on one relationship. No drugs, drunks, or fems need apply. Color not important. Photo gets mine. All ads answered. Call Voice Mail Box #1009, 900-835-0769. [21VM]



DISCRETION A MUST GWM, 34, 5'9", 165, mustache, top, seeks same in bearded bottom. Call Voice Mail Box #1008, 900-835-0769.

HOT TO EAT GWM 30 years, looking to meat & eat hot man studs!! You're in for some hot fun! Sit on my face & beg me to stop!! Call Voice Mail Box #1010, 900-835-0769.

GWM SEEKING GAM YOU: clean -cut, boyish, 18-26 y.o., handsome, masculine, non-smoking, trendy, independent, and intelligent guy. ME: 24 y.o., masculine, very attractive, clean-cut, non-smoking, professional, 6'1", 170#, WM. Call Voice Mail Box #1011, 900-835-0769.

TWO FOR TWO. GW couple, 1 is 27 other is 38. Seeking singles or couples. Hairy chests and buffs are a plus. P.O. Box 195 Wilton, CA 95693. Call Voice Mail Box #1012.

POSITIVE HIV+ GWM 40 blonde, hazel eyes, 5'10", 155 lbs, healthy, smoker, attractive, passionate (cuddling to leather), positive attitude, exercise, meditation, walking, ACIM, reading, Tai Chi, open minded, seeks: slender, supportive, attractive, similar. Call Voice Mail Box #1014.

LEATHER RELATIONSHIP WANTED Me: gray, dark pink, magenta, teddy bear, hunter green, light blue, black and white checkerboard - all worn right. You: left to above,

non-smoker, no drugs, intelligent, communicative, honest. Call Voice Mail Box #1013.

BI-BLK MAN 6'1", 175, good looking seeking bi or gay males who are trim and nice looking and discreet. Call Voice Mail Box #1017.

MASTER NOW LOOKING for males and couples who need training - respect all limits - trained in all specialties. I'm white male, late 30's good-looking, muscular. If you are real and like variety, please call and let's talk now. Call Voice Mail Box #1015.

HGM 30 HANDSOME 6', 195 lbs, brown eyes, black curly hair, moustache. Recently back in the single state of mind. Looking for attractive men 21 to 40 for friendship, sexually versatile a plus. Ernest in Sacramento. Call Voice Mail Box #1019.

WATER SPORTS! Wet & wild. End the drought now. Thirsty drinkers gulp golden gallons for hours from big hose. Experienced thirsty perverts only for hot recycled action. Call Voice Mail Box #1018.

FATHER OF FOUR, WM 31, 230 lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes, bearded hairy teddy. Sexually versatile HIV+. Looking for other HIV+ healthy men for fun, possible relationship. Call Voice Mail #1016.

TOP MAN WANTED. Looking for a masculine GWM 30 to 40 to share good times. I am intelligent, sensitive, clean smoker, no drugs. Friendship now, relationship later. Call David at 916-852-0701. [23PL]

GERMAN-LATIN BOTTOM seeks hung top man, 10" thick, big load, any race - Iranian? xxx handsome, moustache, constant sex, loving and kind. Message for Kurt 4308 Figwood way, Sacramento, CA 95864. [23PL]

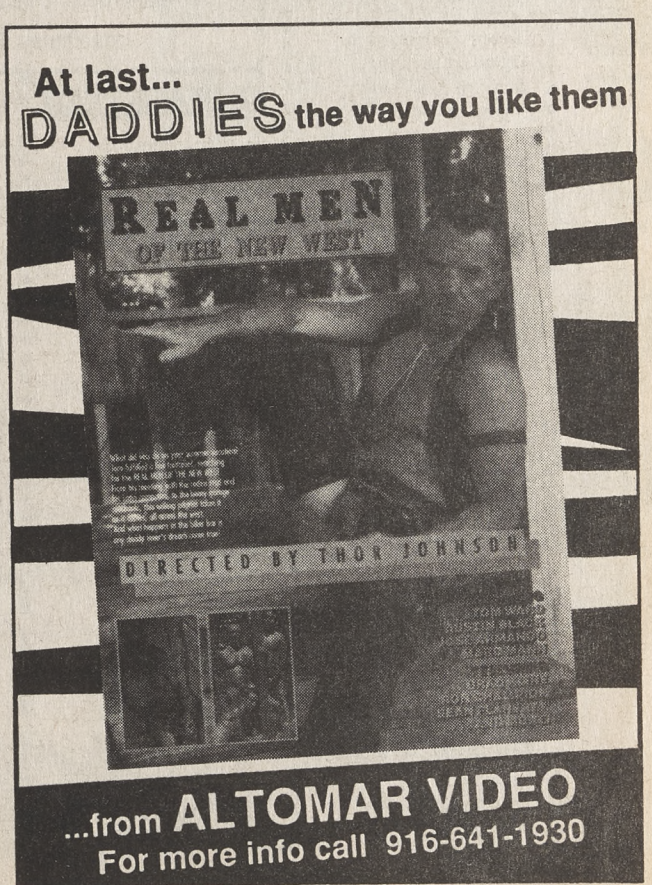
BUTT F - - - BUDDIES send S.A.S.E. to B.F.B. 1001 Page Box 1, San Francisco, CA 94117. [23PL]

DAD, ARE YOU OVER 40 in great shape and ready for video stardom? Fun/Fantasy/Fame to sexy, mature, masculine men who know how to show it hard. For more info and interview, call JW at 916-641-1930. Altomar Video. [24PL]

BROWN/BLUE EYES, 37 slender, non-smoker, relationship oriented. Seeks non-balding GM 27-39, likes movies, hiking, roller coasters, gardening, cards. 916-922-4781. [22PL]

NATIONWIDE - BI/WM, 55, retired, 5'11", 200, good-looking, hairy chest, traditional hetero values, into Campground Hosting, Ham radio, travel. Seek Greek A/P, French A/P, monogamous lover to share country living, outdoor fun, camping, hunting, fishing, gardening, should know his way around a kitchen and RV. Your photo gets mine. Hubert, P.O. Box 93, Stewarts Point, CA 95480. [212PL].

INTENSE SAFE SEX wanted by extremely horny, well-hung, W/M, 33. If you are a masculine well-hung Italian or Latin, dark featured, smooth defined stud, I want to get it on with you. 707-864-9661. [22PL]



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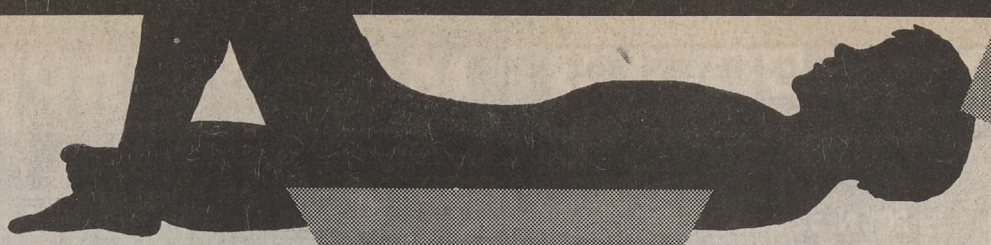

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Bill, loves sports and active discreet men. Let's work out. Ext. 1706

Rick, blonde hair, 39, 6' 180 lbs, very fit, young at heart seeks life partner, walks on the beach and roller coaster rides. Ext. 1709

BODYBUILDERS

Joe, NY 145lb. looking top muscular for stmy encounters. leave name and number. Ext. 1719

Julian, 22, looking for Italian & German, attractive, well built under 35. Ext. 1603

Steven, likes Italians, blondes, bodybuilders to share good times, going out, no one-nighters. Ext. 1699

Frank 22, Asian, 5'9" 180lb, enjoy sports, football & basketball. Let's connect. Ext. 1604

Dan, seeking companionship and great intimate times, blonde hair, hazel guys, great physiques only. Ext. 1634

Men 20-30 leave description of your pleasure. Just let me know what you want, all races. Ext. 1801

GREAT GUYS LOOKING FOR FUN

Kerry honest and intimate relationship, playful and fun. Tell me about yourself. Ext. 1802

GREAT GUYS

Handsome Rich, in Mountain View, CA, call anytime for phone fun or lover for relationship. Ext. 1678

BI-CURIOUS

6'3" long blonde hair clean shaven 190lb. looking for someone new to gaylife 20-50 looking to experiment, couples a plus. Ext. 1625

THIS WEEK'S MAN FINDER MAIN ATTRACTION

Mr. Right Seeking Mr. Right

Intelligent, handsome, athletic, HIV-, man, 27 seeks similar for monogamous relationship. Like travel, movies, good times. Ext. 1780

YOUNG GOLDEN BOY

Eric, Long Beach CA wants to talk with young trim guys. Ext. 2111

READY FOR ACTION

Eric, want to play anyway you want, straight acting. Ext. 1635

Wayne, blue eyes, mustache, clean, seeking new friends, no commitments. Ext. 1721

LAID BACK

Tony, No. Calif. 48, gentle tp wishing interested in dating young 18-30 slim. Ext. 1658

Bill, black male, 6ft. slim muscular seeks good times and to meet people, no one-nighters. Ext. 1710

SF 1st timer, bi-curious excited, need teacher for massage or more. Ext. 1590

Seeking young bi-sexual, need intro to gay world. Please call me to talk more. Call my box. Ext. 1591

JOCKS

Jay, athletic, 36, in San Francisco seeking attractive white btms under 32, ready for work-out. Ext. 1179

Howard, in SF, 32 professional 5'10", straight acting, sports, safe fun, discreet. Ext. 1160

Doug, black, seeking serious relationship, clean, no HIV. Ext. 1579

Craig, 36, 190, San Mateo, NS, No drink, prefer Latinos 18-23. 1st timers spec. service, serious only. No calls after 10pm. Ext. 1581

Bob, clean, greek, active, seek phone fun. Test drive avail. Ext. 1587

GWM needs older passionate man to take care of me and travel. I'm monogamous, caring and warm looking for life partner. This is new for me. Ext. 1592

Roy, 5'10" likes everything, TS, Lingering, sure to show you a good time. Ext. 1596

Sam, likes to cuddle, prform, ext. 1599

Jason, 21, East-Indian, like fishing movies, dining, and love getting massages! Ext.1605

Well built, travelling coast to coast, in search of ??..I enjoy Sports, one nights, clean fun, let's make contact. Ext. 1890

Take a chance on me. This is it, fun parties, I've got it, you won't be sorry. Ext. 1891

Some like it Ruff, Ray, well fit strong men, drop me a line. Ext. 1741

Greg, 24, brown hair, blue eyes, looking for companionship, someone interesting, honest and sincere for midnite dates. Ext. 1749

Gentlemen, I'm available, GM, 20 Philapino, looking for exciting whites or latinos 18-30, let's do it, call my box. Ext. 1779

Quality person, handsome, Chris, likes to talk, Oregon boy, looking for stable relationship/on going friendship and maybe more. Ext. 1799

Italian, slim bearded, looking for buddies for romance, sincere only, hairy. Ext. 1892

To respond to an ad just dial 1-900-740-1MEN and enter the extension number

Surfer Boy, young California dude, 21, seek same for fun in the sun and whatever. Partiers a plus. Ext. 1893

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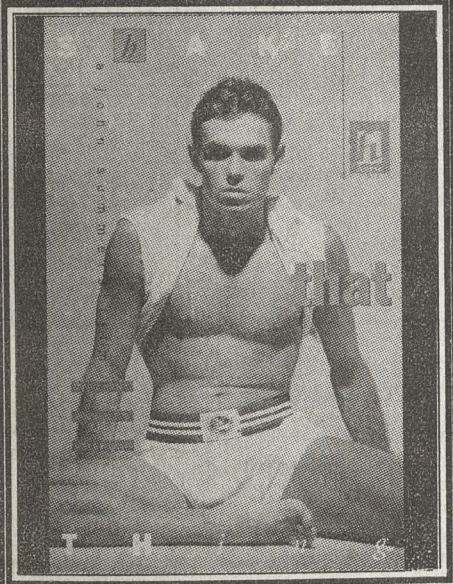

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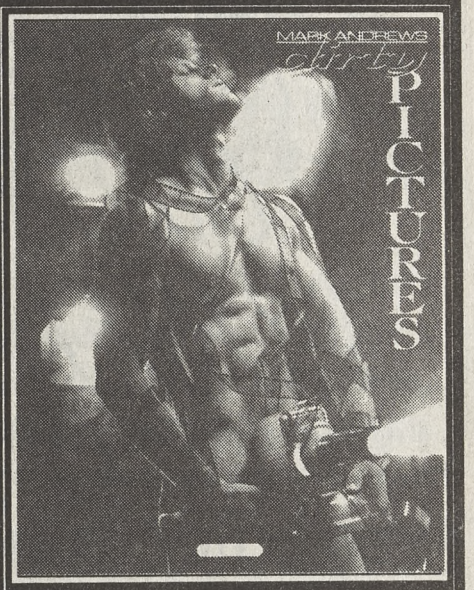

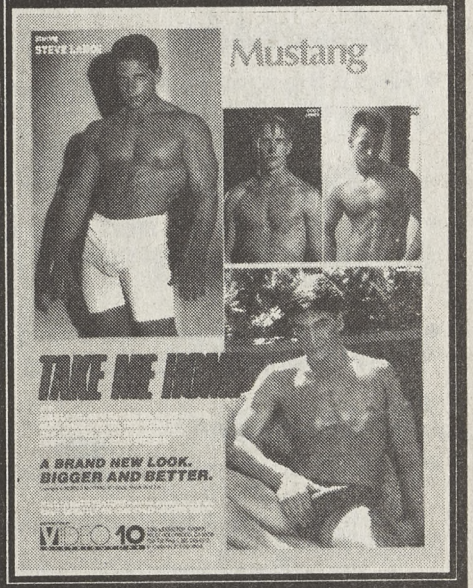

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  The deadline is the 20th of each month.
- You'll be given the start date of your ad and your personal access code so you can retrieve your messages.
- Your ad will run for three months. Call 916-452-0769 to renew, or just submit a new form.

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Name: _____

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Contact Phone: _____

☐ Renewal, Box Number _____

☎

Send to: **VOICE MAIL AD**
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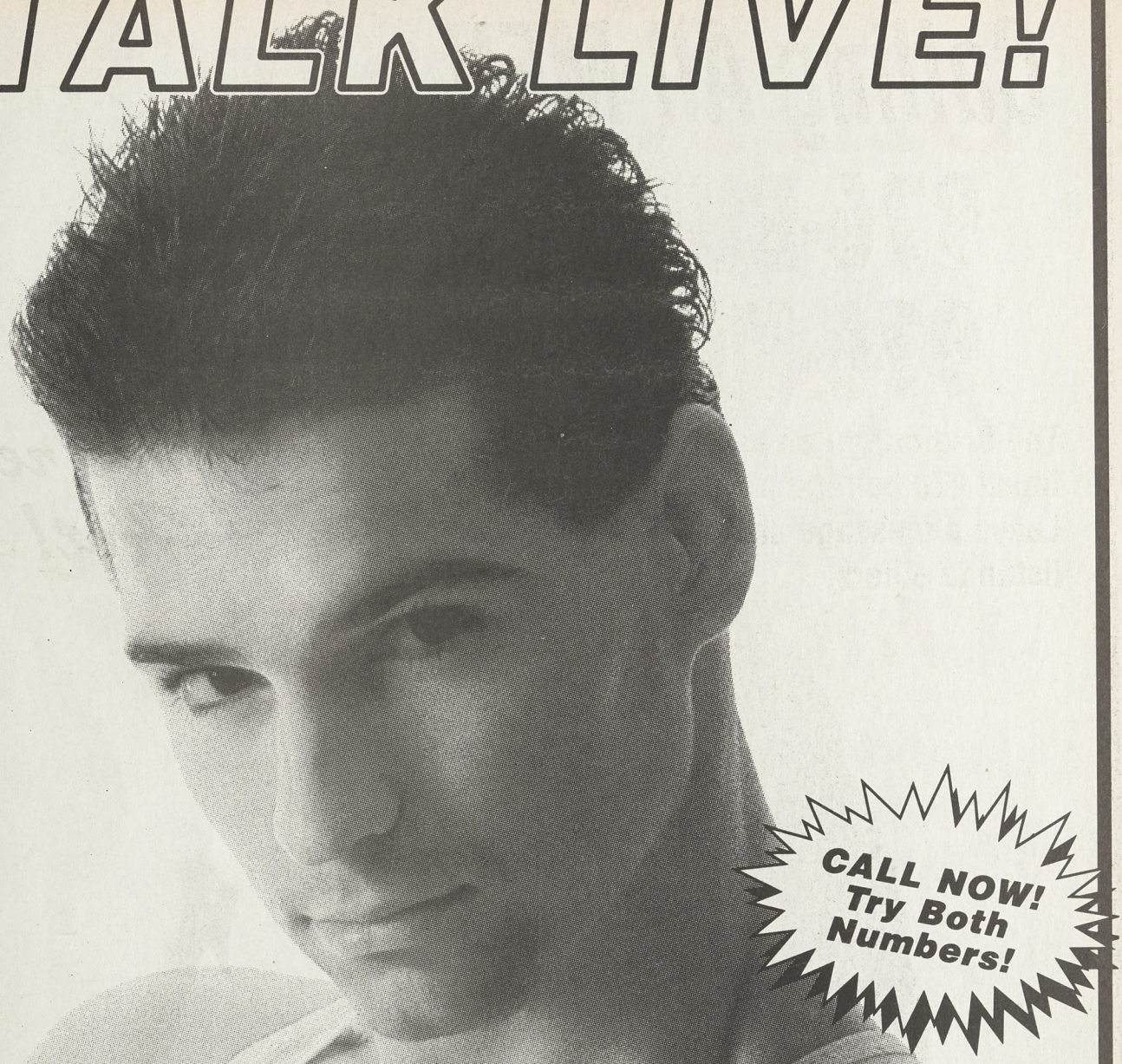

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